

REMARKS

Statements of the Substance of the Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Sykes and her supervisor for the courtesy of a personal interview conducted on January 20, 2011 (the "Personal Interview"). During the Personal Interview, Applicants explained by showing a sample apparatus that one of the key features of the invention is to press all of longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips by first and second bending members of the apparatus to create ridges and valleys and this key feature makes the invention distinguished from the cited references. In light thereof, Applicants proposed amendments to claims 12 and 20.

The Office stated that the feature of pressing all of longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips by first and second bending members of the apparatus is distinguished from the weaving process disclosed in the cited references and the Office would allow the proposed claim 20 if the term "imaginary" is removed from the proposed claim 20. The Office, however, stated that the proposed claim 12 does not include the distinguished feature.

Amendments to Claims and Specification

Claims 12-19 and 26 have been canceled and claim 20 has been amended to include the distinguished feature acknowledged during the Personal Interview, solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application, without intending to disclaim and/or relinquish any subject matter that could have been claimed and to limit application of the doctrine of equivalents, and while reserving the right to continuation and/or divisional application(s). Claims 21-25 have been amended to point out more particularly what Applicants regards as the invention and/or make minor editorial effects and/or correct informalities identified by the Office. The amendments to the claims are fully

supported by the originally filed specification (e.g., FIGS. 6-10; pages 15-17, and 19-22). Claims 27-34 have been added, which cover the subject matter of the canceled claims and are supported by the originally filed specification (e.g., FIGS. 6-10; pages 15-17, and 19-22). No new matter has been amended.

The specification has been amended to change the title of invention. Also, the specification has been amended to change the term "support grooves" represented by the reference numbers 81 and 91 to "longitudinal support grooves" and change the term "through holes" represented by the reference numbers 82 and 92 to "lateral support grooves." No new matter has been amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 22 and 26 stand rejected allegedly as being indefinite. The informalities have been corrected by the amendments to the claims, thereby obviating the rejections

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 12-26 stand rejected allegedly as being obvious over Meyer et al. in view of Stevenson et al. and/or further in view of Kallmeyer et al. Claims 12-17, 19-21, and 23-25 stand rejected allegedly as being obvious over Willibey et al in view of Neubauer et al and further in view of Kallmeyer et al., Sekiguchi et al. and/or Wimberger-Friedl et al.

The present invention relates to a method for producing a geogrid including longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips and lateral fiber-reinforced polymer strips that are interconnected at a plurality of junctions to form a lattice structure. Independent claim 20, as amended, recites a method for producing the geogrid, in which ***all*** of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips are ***pressed by first bending members and second bending members at the same time to form ridges and valleys in each of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips*** so that the valleys and the ridges formed in

all of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips define ***closed spaces*** when viewed in a lateral direction, and the lateral fiber-reinforced polymer strips are ***inserted into the closed spaces such that one lateral fiber-reinforced polymer strip is inserted into each closed space***. As acknowledged by the Office during the Personal Interview, these features are neither disclosed nor taught by the cited references. Therefore the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Time extension is requested. The Director is authorized to charge the fee for time extension.

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Respectfully submitted,

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